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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 002023

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TAGS: [PHUM](#) [UNHRC](#) [PREL](#) [KUNR](#) [KE](#) [IR](#)
SUBJECT: IRAN'S CANDIDACY FOR THE UNHRC

REF: A. STATE 66050

[1](#)B. NAIROBI 1715

Classified By: D/Political Counselor Lisa Peterson. Reasons 1.4 (b,d)

[1](#)1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche urging Kenya to oppose Iran's candidacy for the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to Tom Amolo, Head of MFA's International Organizations and Conferences Division. Amolo's response was not encouraging. Thanking poloff for sharing the U.S.' view, he noted that Kenya has its own perspective based on Kenya's national interest. He assured poloff, however, that the government would assess our request.

[1](#)2. (SBU) According to Amollo, the Kenyan relationship with Iran is based largely on trade cooperation. Iran is Kenya's largest source of imported oil and through the two countries' formal Joint Commission, they address trade and agriculture issues.

[1](#)3. (C) In response to Amollo's reiterated request for U.S. support of a seat for Kenya on the UNHRC, poloff stressed that Kenya's stand on the candidacy of human rights violators such as Iran would demonstrate Kenya's commitment to upholding human rights.

[1](#)4. (C) The Ambassador separately tried to reach Foreign Minister Tuju regarding Iran's candidacy, but has been unable to make contact.
BELLAMY